

TRIBUTE TO JOHN PERNA AND
SAGINAW HABITAT FOR HUMAN-
ITY

HON. DALE E. KILDEE

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the outgoing director of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity, John Perna. Mr. Perna is leaving his position as director of the organization after six years in that post. He will be honored at a dinner on March 8th in Saginaw, Michigan.

John Perna's background as a student of theology at the University of Notre Dame and his work in church music ministry helped him to expand the Saginaw Habitat for Humanity. He started working for Saginaw Habitat for Humanity in 1996. At that time he was the only paid staff person. Four houses were built that year by the organization. Today, the staff includes seven full time employees, one part time employee and three Americorps members. The group anticipates completing sixteen houses in the Saginaw community this year including the Blitz 2003 when eight houses will be built in two weeks.

Saginaw Habitat for Humanity holds the principles of being an ecumenical, Christian housing ministry foremost in all its endeavors. Committed to eliminating substandard shelter and homelessness from the area, Saginaw Habitat for Humanity has partnered with several area churches and organizations to make affordable, respectable housing available to all. Reflecting on the teachings of Jesus Christ, the members, volunteers and staff of Saginaw Habitat for Humanity have put their faith into action. A cornerstone of this action is the "economics of Jesus," or volunteers responding to those in need. Together the homeowners, the construction volunteers, partner organizations like the Home Builders Association, the Michigan Prison Build Program, the Michigan National Guard and area High School building trades students contributed the sweat equity that made the dream of a new home a reality for several families.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating John Perna and Saginaw Habitat for Humanity for the work they have accomplished thus far. I wish Mr. Perna the best as he starts a new phase of his life, and I wish the best for the incoming director, Paul Warriner, along with the entire Saginaw Habitat for Humanity organization. May they continue in their work until every person has a decent place to live.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE WEEK

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my strong support for this week's campaign, "Uniting Our Voices: Speaking Together to Speak Out," against domestic violence sponsored by Lifetime Television and the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence in coordination with the Congressional Caucus on Women's Issues.

I would like to commend these organizations for their hard work and continued efforts to raise awareness of domestic violence issues.

Domestic violence is a serious problem in this country. Nearly one third of American women (31 percent) report being physically or sexually abused by a husband or boyfriend at some point in their lives.

In my home state of California, it is reported that almost 6 percent of California's women suffer physical injuries as a result of domestic violence every year. In 2001, there were more than 52,000 domestic violence arrests, and law enforcement received 198,000 domestic violence calls.

Although domestic violence has traditionally been considered a problem primarily afflicting women, it does not just affect women and is not just a "women's issue." It affects men, women and children; it affects American families and our communities.

Each year, an estimated 3.3 million children are exposed to violence in their homes, and statistics provided by the Department of Justice show that a child's exposure to domestic violence is one of the strongest factors in transmitting violent behavior from one generation to the next, increasing the likelihood of that that child will commit a violent act, continuing the cycle of violence.

Domestic violence is a problem that Americans must confront head-on in order to stop the cycle of violence occurring within our communities and throughout our country.

I support the Violence Against Women Act, it is an important bill whose effects have been far-reaching in all aspects of helping victims of domestic violence, but there is still much more to be done. We must continue to provide funding to domestic violence programs and work to close the loopholes in existing legislation.

VAWA and this week's campaign against domestic violence are just the first of many steps that must be taken in order to end domestic violence. I encourage my colleagues to work with me to further address issues of domestic violence so that we may work towards developing solutions, both locally and nationally, to end the cycle of violence in our communities and to put a stop to the problem of domestic violence.

ON THE OCCASION OF THE 100TH
ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTAB-
LISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL
WILDLIFE REFUGE

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, one hundred years ago this month President Teddy Roosevelt set forth a vision and created a program to preserve unique and endangered species and the critical habitat they needed to survive. Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge was the first of what are now 540 refuges and thousands of small prairie wetlands managed by the Fish and Wildlife Service. From that first refuge, there are now more than 95 million acres of protected habitat across the United States.

Looking back over the past 100 years, much has changed. The United States has transformed from an agrarian to a predominately

urban, and now suburban society. Today, many of these refuges have become islands surrounded by human development and infrastructure. The wildlife they preserve, the species they protect have truly become refugees from an outside world, dominated by human interaction and presence.

Will they survive the next 100 years? I would like to think so. As we move forward, we are developing a stronger appreciation of what we have already lost and what more we must preserve. The Mason Neck National Wildlife Refuge, which was once in my congressional district, is relatively new. It was established in response to the near extinction of America's most prized symbol of freedom and independence, the American bald eagle. The return of the bald eagles and their subsequent recovery is a great success.

I am proud of my support for the National Wildlife Refuge system and particularly proud of the collaborative efforts I and my colleagues in Congress and at the local level made to protect more than 800 acres of environmentally sensitive land at Meadowood Farms that is adjacent to Mason Neck Refuge from development.

We are still at the early stages of learning how conservation and preservation must work over the long term to ensure a species survival. Conservation measures must be practiced not just on the refuges but outside the refuges as well. Biological corridors linking protected areas and critical habitat must be expanded; environmental hazards controlled; and a better understanding of how human interaction affects wildlife must be appreciated.

As time marches forward, I am optimistic that this same ethic that led to the creation of the first refuge multiplies with each new generation to ensure that the refuges of tomorrow and the year 2103 succeed at preserving what we hold dear today.

THE U.S. STEEL INDUSTRY

HON. PHIL ENGLISH

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 6, 2003

Mr. ENGLISH. Mr. Speaker, Yesterday marked the one year anniversary of President Bush's historic stand against unfair steel imports. The President's decision to implement safeguard relief for steel products exemplifies the perfect case in which this type of trade law remedy was created for. Implementing a safeguard action on steel products was necessary, appropriate and permissible under both domestic law and our obligations within the World Trade Organization context.

The American steel industry was seriously injured as a result of repeated surges of low-priced steel imports that suppressed domestic steel prices to unsustainable 20 year lows. The impact of these import surges includes 35 American steel companies entering bankruptcy and the elimination of over 50,000 American steelworker jobs.

And yet, the bold safeguard action taken by the Bush Administration alone can not rectify the underlying practices leading to the import surges which placed the American steel industry in such peril. Make no mistake, the domestic steel industry is still very much threatened by enormous global market distortions. Massive foreign steel overcapacity continues to